

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: 7/2/2013

#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #39**

#### **Summer Announcement #35, District 2 Closed Waters and Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net Periods**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 1 is approximately 155,000 summer chum salmon with a reported 719 Chinook salmon released alive. The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through July 1 is approximately 1.9 million fish which is above the median of 1.2 million for this date. Unfortunately, commercial fishing has disrupted sonar operations and negatively affected the quality of information used to manage the salmon runs.

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon and the minimal impact to Chinook salmon observed in this fishery to date, additional commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon. This announcement opens two additional commercial summer chum salmon fishing periods in District 2.

**Closed Waters:** Effective 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 2, commercial fishing will not be allowed to occur on the south bank of the Yukon River in front of the Pilot Station sonar site from an ADF&G buoy just upstream of the sonar to an ADF&G marker 500 yards downstream of the sonar until further notice.

**District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net:** Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open with beach seine and dip net gear only.

As previously announced:

Period #12: 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 2, until 12:00 midnight Tuesday, July 2

The next two commercial fishing periods will be as follows:

Period #13: 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, until 12:00 midnight Wednesday, July 3

Period #14: 8:00 a.m. Thursday, July 4, until 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

**District 2 Subsistence Beach Seine and Dip Net:** Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 with beach seine and dip net gear only will be open at the same times as these commercial fishing periods. Subsistence fishermen are also required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types.

Fishermen have been in compliance with the regulations regarding new gear types. However, fishermen are reminded that the requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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